

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 CPR-01 AF-08
ARA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 CIEP-01 FAA-00
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-06
EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 SAL-01 FEA-01 /160 W
-----230430 006280 /67

R 230330Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9502
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMCONGEN MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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MONTREAL FOR U.S. ICAO REP.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EAIR, TH, PINS
SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE AND ANTI-TERRORISM CONVENTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 18965; (B) HONG KONG 1996 (NOTAL); (C) STATE
34147; (D) 76 BANGKOK 33921 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF ON FEB 22 REVIEWED WITH PRAJIT ROJANAPHRAUK,
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TREATY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS, MFA,
RTG POSITIONS RE LOS INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN GENEVA AND
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FOUR ANTI-TERRORISM CONVENTIONS.

(A) LOS MEETING IN GENEVA FEB. 28-MAR. 11, EMBOFF HANDED
IN COPY OF REF. A ON APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON
AND ASKED WHETHER RTG HAD REACHED DECISION ON PARTICIPATION
IN GENEVA MEETING. MR. PRAJIT SAID RTG CONSIDERS THIS
MEETING "IMPORTANT" AND ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO PARTICI-

PATE IN EFFORT ASSIST IN RESOLVING "THIS MAJOR BARRIER TO SIGNING OF LOS CONVENTION." NOTING THAT THAILAND "IS NOT AN EXTREMIST," HE SAID RTG DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE SOLELY BECAUSE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSIGNED SUCHINDA YONGSUNTHORN, RTG'S LOS EXPERT, TO ATTEND AN AFRO-ASIAN SESSION IN IRAQ DURING PERIOD OF EVENSEN MEETING IN GENEVA. IN ADDITION, MR. PRAJIT STRESSED THAT THAILAND'S MAIN INTEREST LIE IN COMMITTEE II MATTERS AND NOTED FEB. 12 STATEMENT IN WHICH MFA FORMALLY PROTESTED ACTIONS BY BURMA, BANGLADESH, AND INDIA IN EXTENDING "ECONOMIC ZONE" TO 200 MILES. HE SAID THESE CLAIMS POSED SERIOUS THREAT TO THAI DEEP-SEA FISHING INDUSTRY AND STATED THAT IN AFTERNOON FEB. 22 MFA WOULD CHAIR INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, CALLED AT REQUEST MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FISHERIES), TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RTG REACTIONS TO 200-MILE CLAIMS BY NEIGHBORS. PRAJIT STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THAILAND HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED ASSERTING A 200-MILE CLAIM, PRESSURES TO DO SO MIGHT EMERGE IN REACTION TO CLAIMS BY NEIGHBORING STATES.

(B) TOKYO, HAGUE, AND MONTREAL CIVIL AVIATION CONVENTIONS. MR. PRAJIT NOTED THAT RTG HAS RATIFIED TOKYO CONVENTION AND HAD IN 1975-76 COOPERATED WITH USG IN EXTRADITING TO U.S. INDIAN NATIONAL WHO ATTEMPTED TO BLOW UP PAN AM AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT IN BURMESE AIRSPACE. HE ADDED THAT AS RESULT TALKS WITH OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, MFA HAS REVIEWED DRAFT ENABLING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD GIVE EFFECT UNDER THAI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAW TO OBLIGATIONS RTG WOULD ACQUIRE UNDER HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS, WHICH MFA WILL RECOMMEND BE SIGNED; IT WILL SUBMIT DRAFT SOON FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET. IF APPROVED, THIS LEGISLATION, DRAFTED ORIGINALLY IN 1973, WOULD GO TO NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO URGE RTG TO SIGN AND RATIFY THESE TREATIES (REF D).

(C) UN CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONALLY PROTECTED PERSONS (REF. C). MR. PRAJIT SAID MFA HAD NOT TO DATE STUDIED THIS CONVENTION IN DETAIL, BUT HE PERSONALLY SAW NO REASON WHY THAILAND SHOULD NOT BECOME A PARTY TO IT. EMBOFF URGED THAT RTG SIGN AND RATIFY AND ASKED THAT MR. PRAJIT INFORM HIS MINISTER OF USG INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONVENTION BY ALL STATES. HE AGREED TO DO SO.

3. EMBOFF ALSO RAISED ISSUE OF AIRPORT SECURITY AND PASSED TO MR. PRAJIT SUBSTANCE OF REF. B WITH REGARD TO

PURCHASE HERE OF PISTOLS AND AMMUNITION WHICH JAPANESE
GUN RUNNER THEN CARRIED ABOARD AIRCRAFT AT BANGKOK INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT. EMBOFF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MINISTRIES
OF DEFENSE AND COMMUNICATIONS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBI-
LITY FOR AIRPORT SECURITY AND SAID EMBOFFS, AND
POSSIBLY AMBASSADOR, WOULD BE LOBBYING AT NUMBER OF
MINISTRIES IN NEW FUTURE ON BEHALF IMPROVED AIRPORT
SECURITY. MR. PRAJIT, WHO APPEARED IMPRESSED BY LEAKAGE
EVIDENT IN GUN-RUNNING CASE, AGREED THAT RTG AND THAI
INTERNATIONAL HAVE STAKE AS WELL AS RESPONSIBILITIES IN
SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PASSENGERS AND SAID HE WOULD BE
IN TOUCH WITH COLLEAGUES IN OTHER MINISTRIES IN THIS
REGARD.
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